

HONORING AMELIA BOYNTON
ROBINSON

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amelia Boynton Robinson, a woman who made vast contributions to the civil rights movement.

Amelia Boynton was born on August 18, 1911 in Savannah, Georgia, and was first exposed to the fight for equal rights at the age of 9, when she joined her mother in the women's suffrage movement. She learned four principles of life that she still carries on today: daily praying, always helping and showing compassion for others, standing up for the morally right, and becoming economically independent.

After graduating from Tuskegee University, she also studied at Tennessee State, Virginia State, and Temple University. She became a registered voter in 1932, and was one of the first people to pass tests used as a barrier to prevent Southern blacks from being able to vote.

In 1930, Amelia met Dallas County extension agent Samuel Boynton. The two shared the desire to improve the lives of African-Americans in their community. As a result, the Boynton's became co-founders of the Dallas County Voters League in 1933. In 1936, Amelia and Samuel married and had two sons, Bill, Jr. and Bruce Carver. After losing her husband in 1963, Amelia was not deterred from her commitment to improve the lives of African Americans.

On February 29, 1964, Amelia Boynton ran on the Democratic ticket for a seat in Congress representing the state of Alabama, becoming the first African-American woman to run as a Democratic candidate as well as the first woman to run in the state's history.

On March 7, 1965, at the age of 53, Amelia joined fellow civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. in organizing the marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. On that fateful day, 600 peaceful protestors tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge and were met with the violence known as "Bloody Sunday." Forever immortalized by photograph, the nation saw Amelia Boynton beaten unconscious and left for dead on this tragic day.

"Bloody Sunday" prompted swift action by Congress and resulted in President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965. President Johnson invited Amelia as a guest of honor during the signing of this important civil rights legislation.

After the signing of the Voting Rights Act, Amelia continued her leadership across the nation as a writer, speaker, and social change ambassador.

In 1990, Boynton was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal of Freedom. She continued to tour the United States on behalf of the Schiller Institute, which continues to defend the human and moral rights of all.

And on March 7, 2015, I was proud to have walked alongside Amelia Boynton during the 50th Anniversary of the March in Selma, Alabama. I ask my colleagues who also traced the very footsteps that Amelia took to pledge to go beyond just remembering those who sacrificed for us and resolve to carry on their legacy with action.

HONORING GWEN McCLAIN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gwen McClain of Steeleville, Missouri, for her outstanding achievement of receiving the Patriot's Pen Award. The National Patriot's Pen Essay Contest is an annual competition sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. While over 200 essays were submitted in the state of Missouri, Gwen's stood out above the rest.

The theme of the 2015 National Patriot's Pen Contest was "Why I appreciate America's Veterans." Students were encouraged to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society. As a recipient of this award, Gwen has shown remarkable creativity and maturity.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Gwen McClain on her great accomplishment before the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING BRANDAN SCOTT
FITZGERALD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandan Scott Fitzgerald. Brandan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brandan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandan Scott Fitzgerald for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,457,339,107.97. We've added \$7,525,580,290,194.89 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO ANN NEILSON—28TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Ann Neilson of La Cañada Flintridge, California.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Manhattan Beach, Ms. Neilson and her husband, Bob, have lived in La Cañada Flintridge for over fifty years. Well-regarded as a straightforward, tireless community leader, Ann is involved in numerous charitable organizations in La Cañada Flintridge. She has been a Docent at the Lanterman House for over two decades, and is a past and present Board member. She is active in the Assistance League of Flintridge (ALF), a nonprofit service organization of volunteers committed to serving the needs of the community through philanthropic programs developed and administered by its members. Ms. Neilson was Chair of the College Application Essay Committee, Chair of the Retired Service Volunteer Committee, a volunteer at the Bargain Box Thrift Shop, and a member of the Budget Committee. Ann's current project with ALF is Chair of their impressive Summer School program for La Cañada Flintridge children grades one through eight, a project that the league subsidizes.

Another organization that is near and dear to her heart, Ann has been active in the Girl Scouts of America for nearly forty-six years. She served as a Leader, was President of the Mt. Wilson/Vista Girl Scout Council for six years, Director and Co-Director of two Girl Scout Day Camps in La Cañada Flintridge, and Co-Organizer of the 100th Anniversary Girl Scout Float for the 2012 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. Ms. Neilson is also very involved in the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association, established in 1979, where she is a Founding Member. The association has produced volunteer-made floats for the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parades for nearly four decades, winning awards in the majority of the parades. She served as President for three years and now serves as Past President.

Married for nearly sixty years, Ann and Bob have four children, Beth, Karen, Nancy and Jim, and one grandchild, Emily.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Ann Neilson.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS DIDDY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Doris Diddy for her many years of service at the bank in Menlo, Iowa.

For the past 55 years, Ms. Diddy has served the people of Menlo as an outstanding and dedicated employee, offering reliable and friendly service. Her first day of employment was January 15, 1960, and since that time she has seen four company changes, but she has stayed at her post at the bank, serving her fellow community members. Great service goes a long way, and I am honored to see fellow Iowans like Doris providing service second to none.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Doris Diddy for her service to Menlo and Rolling Hills Band and Trust as she faithfully defended their vault for 55 years. I consider it an honor to represent her in Congress, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA VFW DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT BRENDA JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was established to serve our nation's veterans and their families. This organization honors military service and ensures that the history of America's veterans is preserved for future generations. With the help of its 500,000 members, the organization serves those who have been called to the highest honor by maintaining veterans' memorials, sharing veterans' history with the community, volunteering at veterans' hospitals, and providing scholarships to students recognizing patriotism through art and volunteerism. One very special member, who I would like to recognize today, President Brenda Johnson, rallies the theme "LOVE FOR OUR VETERANS" in my home state of Pennsylvania. President Johnson, a resident of Falls Township, is a Life Auxiliary member of the VFW#6495 located on Haines Road in Levittown, Bucks County, PA, one of seven auxiliaries in my home district. I would like to thank President Johnson and the Ladies Auxiliary for their continued support and dedication and wish them continued success as they serve our veterans and their families.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS F. CAPPELLI,
SR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Louis F. Cappelli, Sr. for his achievements, contributions and service to the people of New Jersey as an educator, advocate and leader. Mr. Cappelli passed away at the age of eighty this year and will truly be missed.

Mr. Cappelli graduated with a bachelor's degree from Trenton State College and a Master's degree from Temple University both in education. Particularly valuing his work with young athletes, Mr. Cappelli was a physical

education teacher as well as a football and track coach. Over his many years in education Mr. Cappelli served as a vice-principal at Triton High School for ten years and as its principal for another twenty-four years.

Mr. Cappelli also served the people of New Jersey in a number of civic posts. He honored his heritage through his leadership with Order of the Sons of Italy, serving as the president for his local Lodge 494 and the Grand Lodge of the State of New Jersey. Serving on the board of directors for the Cerebral Palsy School & Treatment Center of Camden County, Mr. Cappelli never shied away from being a part of a good movement.

He was an effective and beloved member of the Collingswood Board of Education, and was known as advocate for the needs of the students, even when those positions were unpopular. He was also a valued member of the Camden County College board of trustees. I knew Mr. Cappelli as a vital member of the community, who couldn't have been more proud of his family.

Mr. Speaker, Louis Cappelli, Sr. was a great man who exemplified the true meaning of community leader and family-man. I join with my community and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements of this truly exceptional man.

A TRIBUTE TO RENAE PLANT—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Renae Plant of Los Feliz, a unique neighborhood in Los Angeles, California.

Born in Eumundi, Queensland, Australia, Renae moved to the United States in 1994 with dreams of becoming an actor. After living in New York for six years, where she was a model and actor, she moved to Los Angeles in 2000, and established a management company, Nebula Management. Shortly after, she began a second business, a maternity tee shirt line. In 2007, Renae and her husband, Livinio, rescued the local preschool their daughter attended, Camelot Kids, located in the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles, which had been on the verge of permanent closure. After three months of meetings, the preschool was able to re-open its doors. Now eight years later, with Ms. Plant as the Director, the preschool is known for its warm, nurturing environment that encourages a natural love of learning, and is an award-winning school with a long waiting list.

An accomplished organizer, Renae has recently given her time and talent to the Thomas Starr King Middle School, where her daughter, Ilan attends the Environmental Magnet program. In 2014, she joined the Executive Board as Treasurer of Friends of King, a parent support and fundraising group for the school, and

that same year, was instrumental in raising substantial funds that will be used to paint the entire school. She launched the "I Keep King Clean" project with a group of parents who clean the school and carry out other beautification tasks, and was ultimately successful in obtaining a professional cleaning service for the school. In addition, Ms. Plant has been a key force with upcoming efforts to decorate the perimeter fences at the school, the "Chain Link Art Gallery" project, and the upcoming renovation of the library and the gym.

Married for eleven years, Renae and her husband, Livinio, have three children, Ilan, Mateo and Deklan.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Renae Plant.

HONORING POTS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as the Congressional Representative for New York's 16th District, I am always amazed by some of the work our great civic organizations do to better the community. Part of the Solution, better known as POTS, is one of those fantastic organizations that has done so much for so very many throughout the Bronx.

POTS is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves as a "one-stop shop" for individuals living in poverty. The goal of the organization is to help those in need on their journeys from crisis to stability and, ultimately, self-sufficiency. By nourishing the basic needs and hunger of those who come through their doors, the organization seeks to create a positive, loving, and caring community in the Bronx. POTS offers a wide variety of services that were designed to work in concert to address diverse and complex issues. From clothing and food pantry programs to comprehensive legal services, POTS does it all. Even in instances where POTS does not provide directly needed service, their staff will link incoming clients with other groups or organizations that can help them. Simply put, anyone who comes to POTS for help gets it.

Since the very first meal in 1982, POTS has served hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, and this year will help more than 20,000 individuals, including 6,000 children. They have been an absolute godsend to the Bronx and continue to do more and more every year to help those in trying times.

The Riverdale Jewish Community Relations Council is honoring POTS with the Community Organization Award at their annual Legislative Breakfast. They have chosen a wonderful organization to honor. My sincere congratulations go out to the entire Board and staff of POTS on receiving this well deserved recognition and award.

TRIBUTE TO JACLYN EASTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jaclyn Easter, a middle school science